

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A32

THE WASHINGTON POST
6 December 1981

Libya Labels Assassin Reports Product of 'CIA Fantasy Farm'

TRIPOLI, Libya, Dec. 5 (AP) — The Libyan government today described American news reports that it sent an assassination team to kill President Reagan as products of "the CIA fantasy farm."

"Let me state categorically and unequivocally that there is no such hit team working under orders from the Libyan Jamahiriyah" — the Libyan name for the country — said Khalifa Azzabi, director of foreign information.

Azzabi accused Washington of waging a "disinformation campaign" to destabilize Muammar Qaddafi's government and said Western news media "appear to operate as an annex of the CIA rather than the disseminator of facts and news."

Security for Reagan and three top aides has been stepped up following the reports, which said the assassination team may have crossed from Canada into the United States. At

least two informants have provided details of the alleged Libyan plot to U.S. government agents, a reliable source in Washington said.

Qaddafi reportedly was enraged after U.S. Navy jets shot down two Libyan reconnaissance planes over disputed waters 50 miles off the Libyan coast in August. The United States said its planes were under attack. Another supposed motive was anger over reports that the CIA wanted to kill Qaddafi.

[The FBI, Secret Service and other law enforcement agencies are saying little about the tip from an informant — who was reported to have said he helped train terrorists in Libya — that an assassination team has entered the country, United Press International reported from Washington. "There are no developments," an FBI spokesman said deflecting questions on possible arrests and a nationwide investigation.]